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EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING GROUP: 3651

Docket: 14558.01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:	Brian P. Giffin	
Appln. No.:	10/629,094	
Filing Date:	July 29, 2003	Examiner: M. Deuble
Title:	System and Method for Transferring Blanks in a Production Line	Group Art Unit: 3651

**RESPONSE AFTER FINAL
(UNDER 37 CFR 1.116)**

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this document is being sent via First Class U. S. mail addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 12 day of April, 2006.

Thomas E. Euse
(Signature)

Sir:

In the Final Office Action of January 12, 2006, claims 1-3, 5-8 and 14 were allowed and the rejection of claims 13-15 was continued. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 9-13 and 15 is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Independent claim 9 and dependent claims 10-13 and 15 have been rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cordia et al. The Examiner explains how Cordia, in his view, anticipates independent claim 9. The Undersigned apparently does not fully understand the Examiner's explanation because he believes that independent claim 9, and its respective dependent claims, clearly distinguish from Cordia and are not anticipated by Cordia under § 102.

The Examiner states that Cordia meets the added limitation of claim 9 that the detecting, accelerating, transferring and decelerating steps are repeated "for each subsequent blank", that the claims do not require that the first conveyor is "always accelerated in response to the detecting step" and that the claims only require that the first conveyor "be accelerated in response to the detecting step for a number of subsequent blanks" (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully disagrees.